

Our Institutional Church

PORTO ALEGRE

BY W. R. LAMBUTH

THERE is an imperative need of a church in the city of Porto Alegre, Southern Brazil. It is a center of over 100,000 people. In the heart of the city is a great factory population to be ministered to. From the top of the house, now utilized for Church services, one can count twelve chimney stacks indicating as many factories.

Our Church members are poor, but liberal and self-denying. They have given to the full extent of their ability. A lot measuring 100x110 feet has been purchased at a cost of a thousand dollars, the members contributing \$600 of that amount. They do not ask for an imposing structure, but a simple, well-arranged building to meet their needs. If this is not given, we must retreat from a most advantageous position.

The Board of Missions has done its best to aid Bishop Hoss in the erection of this church. The many demands upon it, however, in this and other fields have prevented contributing a sum sufficient to build.

Brother Claude L. Smith writes: "We know how many calls the Board has to meet, and so are not complaining, though our needs are imperative. After putting all our strength and energy into the work, we see our opportunities slipping away day by day. Besides the active and fanatical opposition of Rome, another denomination not noted for its spirituality has entered the field. Though we bought ground long before they did, they have already housed their Church and school, and are taking the lead which Methodism should have taken. Notwithstanding so much opposition, we have enrolled 154 children in the Day School since February, and our report at Conference showed an average attendance of 150 throughout the year. Surely the hand of God is in the work, or such results could not be attained under such great difficulties. We are still hoping and praying that in some way the money may be contributed."

With a balance of \$1,000 the church can be completed without debt. Will not the friends of missions and of a world-wide evangelism coöperate with Bishop Hoss and the Board of Missions in rounding out this sum?